



SEIU Local 26: Know your rights
Building Power at Work and in our Communities
Educational on the loss of good jobs

A good union contract alone isn't enough to protect our families from the growing problems in our communities as the gap between rich and poor gets larger every day. In our member survey, 30% of members said that unemployment/underemployment was a major problem in the community.

They say “the economy is recovering,” so why is it so hard to find a good job?

- **FACT: The new jobs don't pay a living wage.**



- **FACT: Unemployment disproportionately impacts communities of color....**
2014 US unemployment: African American: 12%. Latino 9%. White 5%.



“The CEO of US Bank is paid \$13.6 million per year. That’s \$6,500 per hour. Both CEOs of Wells Fargo and Target are paid \$20 million per year. That’s \$9,600 per hour each. Do you think these people could live off what we get paid? Because I’m pretty sure I could live off what they get paid. Why does our economy seem to just make jobs on these two extremes?”

Kevin, Allied Barton Security (pictured)

“I went from making \$80,000 to making \$18,000. That’s \$4,000 below the poverty line--even though I work in a building with a bank branch of US Bank—one of the biggest banks in the country.”

Robert, Security Officer

Discussion Questions

- 1) What do you think of the notion of the American Dream, that if you “work hard and play by the rules” you can make a decent living for you and your family
- 2) Who benefits from the growth of low wage jobs? Who is hurt?
- 3) If you could create the rules that govern job creation and wages, what would the economic recovery look like?
- 4) What role should our union have in the broader fight for good jobs?